

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on May 8, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Craft, Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik, and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Kraemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest.

Unknown

Trying times are not the times to stop trying.

Ray Owen

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of May 8, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that on page 4, under Orals/Announcements, the sixth paragraph, should read, "Former Commissioner Griffith announced that LACCOA had joined *the group meeting* at the California Endowment."

Commissioner Davis stated that on page 4, under Orals/Announcements, the tenth paragraph, should read, "Commissioner Davis noted that the Woman's Club had had generous donations *from the community* and were able to assist the Redondo Beach Woman's Club with their baby shower *for infants in foster care*."

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of April 10, 2012, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA
Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial
Medical Center

Kathi Galbasin, CERT Coordinator
Pat Sako, CERT
Farrah Benedict, Home Instead

PRESENTATION: "SENIOR CITIZENS EMERGENCY PLANNING TIPS"

Kathi Galbasin, CERT Coordinator, distributed information on disaster planning, earthquake preparedness, map your neighborhood, neighborhood watch programs, emergency supplies and CERT. She reviewed disaster procedures for before and after earthquakes and detailed a list of emergency supplies that should be kept on hand: shoes, helmet, flashlight and batteries, extra prescription medicine, extra eye glasses, paper and pen, coins and bills in small denominations, address book, extra keys, copies of important insurance documents and a cd/thumbdrive of important documents.

Kathi Galbasin stated that there were Area Disaster Centers (ADC) in Torrance at branch libraries and the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center that would be available after a disaster to serve as points of communication with the City and as places to leave messages to reconnect with family members.

Kathi Galbasin noted that text messages might be available for use before cell phone service returned after a disaster. She added that land lines should be checked after an earthquake to ensure that they were connected, to allow for a faster restoration of service.

She detailed a list of food supplies and quantity of water to keep on hand. She encouraged the Commissioners to take both a CERT training, and a neighborhood watch and a map your neighbor program in order to be better prepared. She noted that the *Emergency Preparedness for Seniors* booklet was available on the Torrance City Police Department website to download and print.

There was a discussion on procedures for checking on utilities for possible turn off, using fire extinguishers and labeling pet carriers. Kathi Galbasin recommended installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that on April 10 there was a workshop on the impact to the City from AB109, the bill that would return prisoners from the state control to county control. She noted that the added cost to Torrance for additional police officers would be part of budget discussions on May 8.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that Chief Neu would be at the CERT meeting on May 10 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the impact of AB109.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there was a new City ordinance against feeding birds on public property.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the design for the 2013 Rose Float was presented at the City Council meeting

Commissioner Kraemer reported that May 8 was the first of 2 budget meetings. She added that the funding for the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) was one of the programs involved in the budget discussions.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that there were currently 82 jobs openings that the City was not filling, for budgetary reasons.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Cultural Arts Center was still losing money and the City might have to subsidize the program. Former Commissioner Griffith noted that the Torrance Symphony was also having problems raising funds to support their programs.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand encouraged the Commissioners to attend the May 8 City Council meeting for both the Older Americans Awards, as well as the budget item for the Torrance Travelers tours.

There was a discussion of the proposal for the design of the new Transit Center.

B. Housing

Commissioner Robelotto discussed an article from the Los Angeles Times concerning the protest of the location of a senior group home.

Commissioner Davis presented information on an artist colony in Burbank.

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik detailed an article on new style of nursing home that promoted smaller, home-like facilities for 10 or fewer residents. She added that there was a bill in process to provide a new licensing category for the facilities.

Commissioner Virobik distributed a flyer on 'how to get up from a fall'.

Commissioner Davis reported on an article on "Living with Alzheimer's" and noted that an obesity program called "Weight of the Nation" would be shown on HBO.

D. Transportation

None

E. Community Programs

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Senior Fair and the Successful Aging Expo would both be on May 12.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there was also a food drive at the Successful Aging Expo.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be an Open House and a Disaster Expo at the City Yard on June 9.

Commissioner Kraemer reported on a NPR program entitled "Family Matters" which focused on how extended families successfully lived together.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center reported on a program on KCET on care giving called, "Your Turn to Care".

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that there would be a "Seniors, Don't Be Scammed" program concerning identity theft, on May 15 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of: **April 2012**

Total number of documented calls: 40	Total number of callbacks: 26
Miscellaneous calls: 77	Total number of walk-ins: 24
Total number of calls received: 117	

Of the documented calls:

25% were in regard to transportation	45% were for housing
17.5% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that a Focal Point volunteer, Gloria Ehrenberg received recognition from the City Council for her volunteer work.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Craft reported on a phone scams for credit cards and contractors.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that CERT had distributed flyers in North Torrance neighborhoods with information on recent burglaries in the area.

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the City Council's Older Americans Recognition presentation would be on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council meeting. She encouraged the Commissioners to come and support the recipients, as well as attend the budget portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL RE: TORRANCE TRAVELERS FEE INCREASES

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the letter to City Council on the Torrance Travelers fee increase. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Davis stated that the Women's Club would be helping with the Switzer's Learning Center's Woman of the Year award.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that she and Commissioner Robelotto would be serving on a special committee on senior issues for Janice Hahn.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commissioners that there would be no June meeting; that the next meeting would be in July.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, stated that the OR show and tell would be May 22 and distributed information on a lecture on June 28, by Mimi Guarneri, M.D., on Prevention: Nutrition and Supplements for a Healthy Lifestyle.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted July 10, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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